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TAGS: [PREL](#), [MARR](#), [IS](#), [IZ](#), [JO](#)

SUBJECT: JORDAN-IRAQ: POLICE TRAINING, DEBT, CHALABI,
EMBASSY SECURITY IN BAGHDAD

Classified By: Amb. Edward W. Gnehm for reasons 1.5 (b)(d)

SUMMARY

1. (S) Foreign Minister Muasher said October 5 that Jordan will continue its pragmatic, cooperative relationship with the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) and will send a ministerial representative to the Madrid donors' meeting. However, he expressed concern that an escalating war of words with IGC member Ahmed Chalabi could negatively affect Jordan-Iraq relations, and asked for the U.S. to intervene with Chalabi and explain the importance of Jordan for Iraq and the U.S. Muasher said he wants to return the Jordanian Charge to Baghdad, and will send in a security team soon to examine options for a new chancery. He asked for CPA assistance and greater security protection for the new facility. END SUMMARY.

JORDAN WANTS TO TALK TRADE, DEBT

2. (S) The Ambassador met with Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher October 5 (other topics septels, notal). Muasher's Office Director Ali al-Ayed and PolCouns sat in. The Ambassador noted that the GOJ and CPA were near agreement on a memorandum to provide police training in Jordan for as many as 30,000 Iraqi police cadets, and outlined U.S. plans to accomplish the training. He mentioned that plans were also under way for Jordan to facilitate similar training for the new Iraqi Army.

3. (C) Muasher said the GOJ will maintain its policy of dealing pragmatically and productively with the CPA and IGC. In this context, Prime Minister Ali Abul Ragheb wants to make contact with members of the IGC or interim Iraqi ministers to discuss trade and debt issues. He said Iraqi interim Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari had told him on the margins of the UNGA last week that the IGC is ready to discuss these issues. Muasher said that Jordan would be represented by either Finance Minister Michel Marto or Planning Minister Bassam Awadallah at the upcoming Madrid donors' meeting, where Jordan would be willing to brief on its plans to support Iraqi police training.

"WE'RE WITH THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, EXCEPT ONE GUY"

4. (S) Muasher next asked the Ambassador how Jordan should handle the presence of INC leader Ahmed Chalabi on the IGC. Although Jordan cannot drop its bank fraud charges against Chalabi, the GOJ wants to put the public sniping with Chalabi "behind us" and does not want it to affect Jordan's relationship with Iraq. Unfortunately, he continued, Chalabi has people throughout the Iraqi government -- including in ministries of great importance to Jordan, like Health. Muasher expressed apprehension that Chalabi may instruct his supporters not to deal with Jordan, to the detriment of both countries. Muasher asked that the U.S. try to convince Chalabi of the importance of Jordan's relationship with Iraq and the U.S. "Jordan is your friend and ally," he argued, "and Chalabi needs to know that."

BAD SECURITY HINDERING RETURN OF EMBASSY STAFF TO BAGHDAD

5. (S) Muasher said that, given the breadth and growing depth of Jordan's relations with the new Iraqi government, he needs to return his charge d'affaires to Baghdad as soon as possible. However, the current embassy facility -- the former Ambassador's residence -- is unsafe and inappropriate for use as a chancery. He said he would send a team from the MFA and General Intelligence Directorate (GID) to Baghdad in the near future to locate and rent a more appropriate facility. Jordan is willing to provide "ten or twenty guys" to provide some of the security at a new embassy building, but "I can't send tanks and rocket launchers." Given Jordan's growing importance in Iraq and the August bombing of its Embassy, "I can't see why you can't provide us more

security. With our actions (in support of Iraq and the coalition), we are developing real enemies there."

¶6. (S/NF) The Jordanian Charge in Baghdad, Dimae Haddad (currently visiting Amman), confirmed to PolCouns October 6 that he plans to return to Baghdad on October 12 with an interagency committee to provide Muasher with recommendations on possible new embassy sites. He hopes to work with CPA, the Iraqi police, and ORCA Baghdad on this project.

COMMENT

¶7. (S) Given the growing involvement of Jordan in support of the coalition, CPA, and the IGC, we encourage CPA to work with the Jordanians to secure a new embassy site when they locate one.

¶8. (U) CPA Baghdad minimize considered.

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GNEHM